

FOLK ETYMOLOGY

LEONARD R. N. ASHLEY

Brooklyn, New York

In my forthcoming book on onomastics, What's in a Name? from Genealogical Publishers of Baltimore, I discuss the folk etymologies of United States placenames--among all other aspects of names--such as "ore or no go" for **Oronogo** and "all Benny" for **Albany**. Here are some words originating in the people's distortion of the form or meaning, or based on mistakes of analogy. How many can you recognize?

1. **ragman-roll** (OE), a long document such as a papal bull
2. **De Carlet**, a surname derived from a castle in Aquitaine
3. pie made of **umbles**, innards of a deer
4. **Rivière du Purgatoire**
5. **berberis**
6. **Fleuve de la Fevre**
7. **stewen** (OE), restrain
8. **semonce**, citation
9. **weód** (OE), plant
10. **Pater Noster** (Lat)
11. **trompe**, trumpet
12. **kittle** (Scot), perplex
13. **virole**, iron ring
14. **acqua a catinelle e dogli**, water in basins and casks
15. **zitter**, quaver
16. **Gwenfrewi** (Welsh)
17. **sledis** (OE), sleds
18. **raqueta**, palm of the hand
19. **kári** (Hindi), made dish
20. **Junker**, young sir

Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.